

on December 19, 2020, at the age of 87. Justice Abrahamson was a consummate public servant who was passionately driven by the principle of fairness when applying the law and serving the people of Wisconsin. Her unparalleled commitment to judicial independence and justice had an immeasurable impact on Wisconsin's judicial system and the countless women and men who have been inspired to work in public service by her leadership. She was the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the first woman to serve as chief justice, but her legacy is even richer than those exceptional accomplishments.

Justice Abrahamson's life had modest beginnings in New York City in 1933, as the child of Polish immigrants. Her passion for the law started at the tender age of 6, when she decided she wanted to become a lawyer. Those who knew her at all stages of life—from childhood to retirement—consistently commented on her thirst for learning. She was a voracious reader even at a very young age and a dedicated student, earning honors in high school and college.

Justice Abrahamson graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree from New York University in 1953. She earned a law degree with high distinction from Indiana University in 1956 and a doctor of law in American Legal History from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1962. Justice Abrahamson began her career as a practicing attorney and distinguished professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Justice Abrahamson's career is an inspiration to all women who are fighting forces that tell them they don't belong because of their gender. She faced significant discrimination when she entered the legal profession in the 1950s. From being denied employment at a law firm after graduating first in her class at Indiana University, to the denial of jobs, clients, and even social club memberships because of her gender, Justice Abrahamson remained undaunted by prejudice. She refused to back down from those who stood in the way of a woman's path to success in the legal profession. She carried that steadfast commitment to fairness and equality in her work on the court.

In 1976, Justice Abrahamson broke the glass ceiling in Wisconsin's judicial system by becoming the first female justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She again changed the judicial landscape in 1996 when she became the first woman to serve as chief justice. For the chief, serving on the supreme court meant serving the people of Wisconsin as an independent, fair, and impartial justice because, after all, the court and our court system belong to the people, not powerful special interests. That is why she spent a lot of her time traveling the State, meeting with people. Whether it was meeting with local judges, riding along with local law enforcement, or meeting with ad-

vocates for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, she always understood that you can't serve the people if you don't walk in their shoes. That is why the people of Wisconsin elected her to the supreme court four times and she served 43 years on the court—serving the people.

The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said Justice Abrahamson was “most courageous and sage, and ever mindful of the people—all the people—that the law exists or should exist to serve.”

Justice Abrahamson was cherished and respected as a mentor, teacher, advocate, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was known for her strong work ethic, often the last person working at night at the State capitol preparing for a case. Even as she faced pancreatic cancer at the end of her last term on the State supreme court, Justice Abrahamson fearlessly continued working, noting, “On any day in this state, more than a quarter-million people are facing a cancer diagnosis.” She tried to make the law more accessible and understandable to clients and the general public and brought a caring perspective to her professional and personal interactions. Her passion was also seen outside of the courtroom in her travels and treasured relationships with family and friends.

Justice Abrahamson was a true American hero. From her incomparable tenure on the Wisconsin Supreme Court to her efforts as a pioneer for gender equality, Justice Abrahamson lived a life devoted to service and justice for all. Her greatest legacy is the trail she blazed for countless young women, who can see themselves in a courtroom or on a judicial bench because of the barriers she fearlessly broke through. She will shine in Wisconsin's history as one of the most influential women who shaped not only our judicial institutions but the State as a whole.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEIL HEINEN

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Neil Heinen, editorial director for WISC-TV and Madison Magazine, on his retirement. Throughout his remarkable career, Neil has been steadfast in his commitment to fair and honest reporting, clear-headed editorials and fascinating stories about the community he loves.

Born in Milwaukee, WI as the oldest of 11 children, Neil first attended St. Norbert College in Green Bay in 1969. He dropped out to spend 4 years working in a mental hospital, where he said he received his real education. He worked as a bartender and actor in Madison before deciding to study journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He began his career at WIBA radio station, spending 10 years on the air before joining the team at WISC-TV News as a news assignment editor.

It was there that Neil worked with longtime station manager Tom Bier to

create an editorial director job just as most stations were eliminating their editorial departments. Neil delivered more than 7,400 on-air editorials since he first conveyed the station's views in April of 1992. He also hosted a Sunday morning public affairs program, “For the Record,” that ran 1,500 episodes over 30 years.

Perhaps Neil's greatest legacy is his leadership in guiding the growth and creativity of Madison Magazine, which won countless awards for providing its nearly 170,000 readers with interesting coverage of local people, entertainment, and issues. Neil's contributions included monthly columns on issues of importance to Madisonians and a monthly food column he coauthored with his wife, Nancy Christy. Madison readers particularly enjoyed his cover stories focused on leadership and visions for Madison's future.

Neil has been a familiar and trusted voice in many of Madison's most important events and controversial issues for the past 30 years. He is known for his support of major community projects such as the Monona Terrace Convention Center, the UW-Madison Kohl Center and Overture Center for the Arts. He helped launch We the People/Wisconsin, one of the most successful civic journalism projects in the country in the 1990s, and worked to start Schools of Hope, an initiative to help close the achievement gap in Madison schools.

While Neil's last day of work was this past September 15, I know he will remain active in the community for many years to come, lending his voice to complex community conversations and championing causes that bring us together. I will be forever grateful for Neil's commitment to the Madison community and for offering his wise perspective in critical times.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DALE HANKINS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Dale Hankins of Chouteau County for volunteering countless hours to support his fellow veterans.

When Dale was 10 years old, a friend of his father, a WWII vet, carried a diamond willow cane. Dale was so intrigued by the way the diamonds stood out, he couldn't take his eyes off of it. At the age of 17, he made his first attempt at carving a cane, and soon realized and appreciated the effort it took to create such beautiful craftsmanship. By the time he finished, his hands were so full of blisters he decided to pursue other hobbies.

Dale later joined the U.S. Army and served in Charlie Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, as an airborne infantry soldier. After receiving his honorable discharge, he returned to Montana and joined the Montana Army National Guard. Having a

renewed appreciation for the sacrifices veterans give, he picked up his hobby again in 2007 and began making diamond willow canes for disabled veterans. Each one is unique and personalized for the veteran, and an American flag is included on the handle of each cane.

Dale hasn't stopped since. He invests 80 hours or more to make each cane beautiful and durable, all at no cost to the veteran. Veterans across the Nation from Florida to Washington are proudly using his gift which has aided in their quality of life.

It is my honor to recognize Dale for his efforts to support and appreciate our heroes for the sacrifices they have made for our great Nation. The compassion and commitment of these extraordinary veterans are an inspiration to us all.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-117. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act" (FHEO 2020-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-118. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Payments by Resource Extraction Issuers" (RIN3235-AM06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-119. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Activities and Operations of National Banks and Federal Savings Associations" (RIN1557-AE74) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-120. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption from the Definition of 'Clearing Agency' for Certain Activities of Security-Based Swap Dealers and Security-Based Swap Execution Facilities" (RIN3235-AK74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-121. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Custody of Digital Asset Securities by Special Purpose Broker-Dealers" (17 CFR Part 240) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-122. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of

the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Asset Thresholds" (RIN1557-AF06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-123. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-124. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Report of Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-125. A communication from the Vice President, Office of External Affairs, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on Development Impact for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-126. A communication from the Managing Director, Congressional Affairs, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Activities: Independent Accountability Mechanism, Fiscal Year 2020"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-127. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0104–2020-0107); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-128. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Australia Group; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-129. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring additional steps to be taken concerning the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber enabled activities declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, received during adjournment of the Senate on January 18, 2021; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-130. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-131. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 21st Century IDEA 2020 report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-132. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-133. A communication from the Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal

year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-134. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2020 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-135. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2018 Information Collection Budget of the United States Government"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-136. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer and Chief FOIA Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2019 Data Mining Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-137. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-138. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2019 Annual Report to the President and Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-139. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2017 NASA FAIR Act Inventory"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-140. A communication from the Secretary of the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual report relative to its compliance with Section 3686(c) of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-141. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corps' Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-142. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations" (Docket No. FDA-2000-N-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-143. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-144. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the General